



NEWS RELEASE

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State DNR Closes Buck Creek Trail
Temporarily closed between February 13 and March 31

OLYMPIA – To protect public safety, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will temporarily close the popular Buck Creek Trail to hikers, bikers, and equestrians, announced Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland today.

The trail will be temporarily closed to all unauthorized users from February 13 to March 31, 2007. The Buck Creek Trail is west of Husum, in Klickitat County, just north of Hood River, Oregon.

“This temporary closure will allow us to clean up the blown-down trees from winter storms, and make some money for the school trust through a salvage logging contract,” said Sutherland. “At the same time, we will be preparing these popular trails for restoration before the heavy use in the upcoming summer season.”

This winter, storms caused a large amount of blowdown in the area which blocked many sections of the Buck Creek Trail. The state DNR is conducting salvage logging operations to remove the downed trees. The salvaged logs will be sold to benefit the Common School trust that helps build kindergarten through 12th grade public schools, and the State Forest trust that supports Klickitat County operations, other services, and local schools.

The public is advised to stay off all sections of the Buck Creek trail, and to not attempt cutting or removing trees from the trail.

DNR — land manager and protector of natural resources

DNR, led by Lands Commissioner Sutherland, manages about 3 million acres of state-owned trust lands — forests, agricultural lands and commercial properties that earn income to build public schools, universities and other state institutions, and help fund local services in many counties. Trust lands provide habitat for native plants and animals, clean water, and offer recreation opportunities.

DNR also is steward of more than 2.4 million acres of aquatic lands—beaches and lands under Puget Sound, navigable lakes and rivers; and manages state natural areas. DNR also manages a small but significant statewide system of State Natural Resources Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves that protect native ecosystems and the plant and animal species that depend on them, and provide access for education and low-impact public use, where appropriate.

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